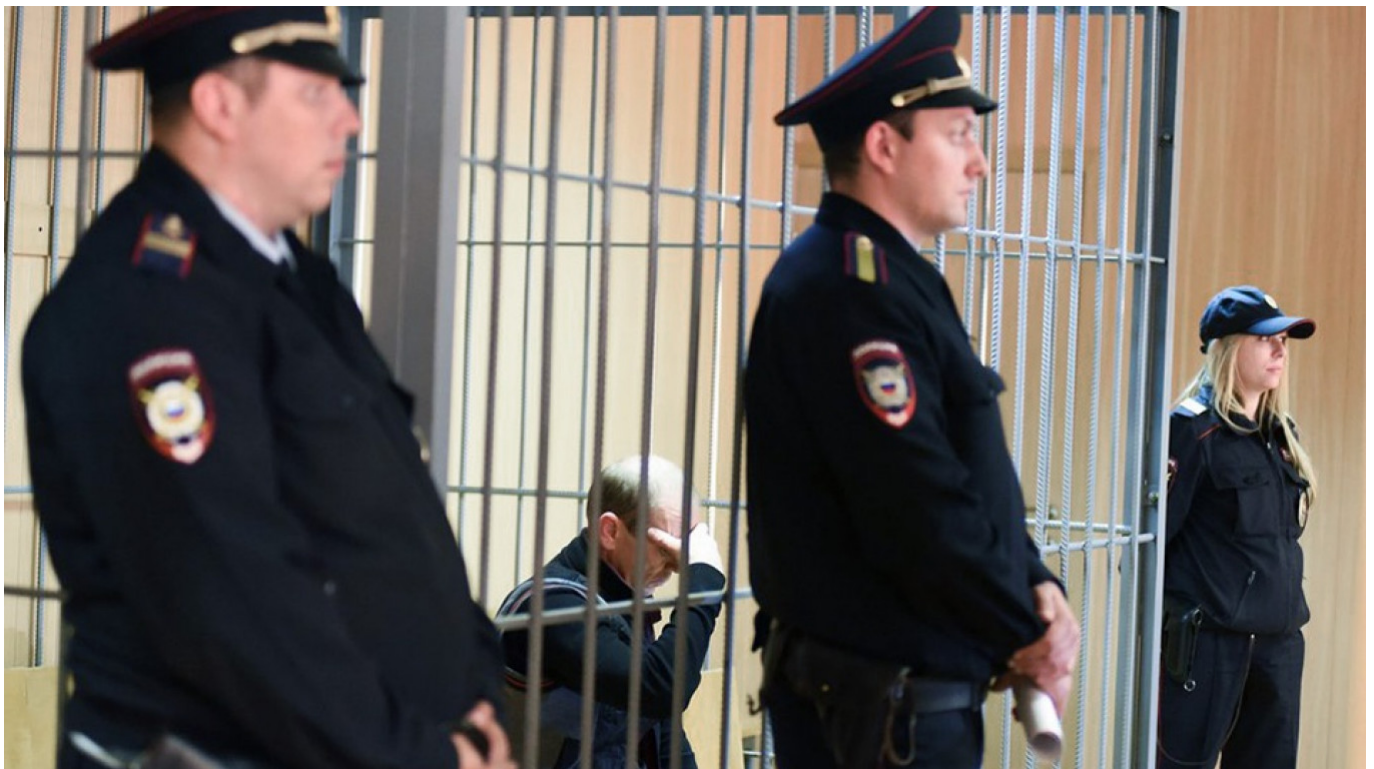


Russian House Arrest Rate Exploded Fourfold in Past 5 Years, Officials Say

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Anton Kardashov / Moskva News Agency

Russian prison officials say the courts have increasingly chosen house arrest as a go-to preventive measure in recent years.

The Federal Prison Service (FSIN) has come under increased criticism in the past year over allegations of [torture](#) and [corruption](#).

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“Over the past five years, the number of [people under house arrest] has increased by more than four times,” FSIN spokeswoman Kristina Panshina [told](#) Interfax on Monday.

Between 2013 and 2018, the number of people under house arrest has grown from 5,000 to 22,000, or by up to 20 percent every year, Panshina said.

“This is primarily done to reduce the number of suspects and defendants held in remand prisons,” she was quoted as saying.

According to the state-run TASS news agency, house arrest – usually assigned for minor crimes – is one of seven preventive measures the authorities [use](#) as an alternative to pre-trial detention.

Panshina said the use of electronic monitoring devices has also gone up since 2013, having been applied to more than 60,000 suspects and defendants in that time, [including](#) prominent anti-Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

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